

FINAL DRAFT

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Complete  
AS Aired

ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE

#108

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"BATTLE OF HEARTS"

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C A S T

GEORGE DAVIS. . . . . ARTHUR HILL  
LELA DAVIS. . . . . LYDIA BRUCE  
ROY DAVIS . . . . . LUKE HALPIN  
MRS. GARSON . . . . . JANICE MARS  
NORMA GILBERT . . . . . CLARICE BLACKBURN  
ROSE (MRS. CARROLL) . . . . . JOSEPHINE NICHOLS

EXTRAS

DIVORCING HUSBAND . . . . .  
DIVORCING WIFE. . . . .  
HUSBAND . . . . .  
WIFE. . . . .  
JUDGE . . . . .  
CASEWORKER (WOMAN). . . . .  
CHILD . . . . .  
RECEPTIONIST. . . . .



FADE UP:

(ROY, TEN YEARS OLD ... LYING IN  
BED. HE HEARS A MAN AND WOMAN  
QUARRELING .. IN THE NEXT ROOM)

LELA: (VO)

I'm tired of it. I'm tired of  
hearing you say it. I'm tired  
of watching it day after day --  
Have some respect for your own  
family.

GEORGE: (VO)

I've got respect but only when  
someone deserves it. Don't I  
mean anything anymore? Why do  
you talk to me that way? Why  
can't you be reasonable?

LELA: (VO)

You're the one who's unreason-  
able, always want things your  
own way. It's not fair - I don't  
want it anymore.

GEORGE: (VO)

I don't care what you want.  
Things are going to be differ-  
ent around here now. So get  
used to it.

COCHRAN:

Good evening, everybody...This is  
Ron Cochran.

Tonight...a story of conflict. One  
that exists in the lives of millions  
of people. Though for each individual  
the reasons are different...the re-  
sults too often...are the same. Dis-  
illusionment and despair. Ironically,  
though many of those involved want  
desperately to be helped...their own  
fear or ignorance keeps them from it.  
But the help is there...waiting to be  
given. By trained and dedicated  
people...who every year...work to  
save...<sup>over a</sup> ~~one~~ million marriages.

DISSOLVE TO:

(ROY AT AN OPEN DOORWAY, LISTENING)

COCHRAN: (VO)

In just a few moments ...

"BATTLE OF HEARTS".

SUPER 35mm INSTITUTIONAL FILM

... on the ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE.



ACT ONEFADE IN:

(A JUDGE'S CHAMBERS. A  
COUPLE SEATED AT A  
TABLE; THE JUDGE IS  
WRITING ON AN OFFI-  
CIAL PIECE OF PAPER)

COCHRAN: (VO)

For many, in place of the  
hope that began their  
marriage...there is now...  
only bewilderment...  
And an anger impos-  
sible to stop...Feeling  
there is no way out...the  
end is inevitable.

(CU-OFFICIAL LOOKING  
PAPER. IT READS:  
DIVORCE DECREE.)

DISSOLVE TO:

(RECEPTION ROOM...  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
SOCIETY OFFICES. A  
SECOND COUPLE IS TALK-  
ING PLEASANTLY WITH A  
CASE-WORKER. THEY  
SHAKE HANDS...AND  
HUSBAND OPENS THE DOOR  
FOR HIS WIFE)

Others...aware of the re-  
sources that the community  
has provided in times of  
stress...come for help.

Like this couple..who, for  
the last eighteen months,  
have been receiving family  
counseling. For them, the  
end is now fairly certain.  
Their marriage...has been  
saved.

DISSOLVE TO:  
THE DAVIS DINETTE.  
(GEORGE, LELA AND ROY  
ARE AT THE TABLE...  
FINISHING DINNER.  
LELA RISES, CLEARS  
OFF SOME PLATES  
AND SITS AGAIN.

COCHRAN: (VO) (Cont'd)  
For these two...the end is  
still unknown.  
All they are sure of...is  
that their marriage is fail-  
ing. A marriage they would  
like to save...but don't know  
how.  
Although this man and woman  
still love one another ...  
their conflict will soon  
force them to make a decision.  
To divorce... or stay to-  
gether.

(SUPER CRAWL)



(GEORGE RISES...TAKES  
COFFEE CUP AND CROSSES  
TO THE LIVING ROOM.  
A SEALED CARTON WITH  
STEREO PARTS IS ON  
THE CHAIR. GEORGE  
TAKES OUT A POCKET  
KNIFE AND OPENS THE  
CARTON)

(LELA RISES, X'S INTO  
THE KITCHEN WITH  
DISHES AND THEN RE-  
ENTERS LIVING ROOM)

(GEORGE DROPS SOME  
EXCELSIOR ON THE  
FLOOR)

COCHRAN: (VO)

Like millions of others  
in the city...there is  
nothing to set George  
Davis and his family  
apart.

Married twelve years ago..  
they spent a two-week honey-  
moon in Bermuda...and returned  
to New York to begin what they  
fully expected would be an  
idyllic life. But for the  
past several years, for reasons they do not understand,  
~~or even knew~~...the idyll has  
changed...into an ordeal.

LELA:

George, be careful. You're  
getting that stuff all over  
the floor.

GEORGE:

Sorry. That stuff gets into everything.

(LELA X'S INTO DINETTE)

(ROY RISES)

LELA:

Roy ... drink your milk.

ROY:

I'm not hungry.

LELA:

You didn't eat anything for  
dinner. Don't you feel well?

ROY:

I'm all right.

LELA:

I've got some cookies in the  
kitchen. Come on. I'll give  
them to you.

(SHE TAKES ROY INTO THE KITCHEN,  
GIVES HIM COOKIES AND X'S INTO  
LIVING ROOM)

GEORGE:

Do you have to do everything  
for him? Let go of his hand  
sometime, will you. See what  
happens.

LELA:

If I didn't give it to him, he  
wouldn't take it.



GEORGE:

He won't go hungry.

(SITS)

LELA:

You know how stubborn he can be.

GEORGE:

I know.

(LELA X'S INTO DINETTE. SHE TAKES  
LETTER FROM HER APRON ... HESITATES  
...THEN RE-ENTERS LIVING ROOM)

LELA:

George. You remember when I had  
to go up to school about Roy?

GEORGE:

Yes.

(SHE HANDS HIM THE LETTER)

LELA:

Well now ... they want us again.  
Both of us. They say he's been  
fighting with the other children.

GEORGE:

Well... what do you expect? You  
let him get away with anything he  
does. Discipline is what he needs.

LELA:

When can you go with me?

GEORGE:

What for?

LELA:

They want to talk to us. He's  
your son, too...

GEORGE:

(RISES)

But you'd made him your exclu-  
sive property. You don't need  
me there. You take care of it.

LELA:

All right, I'll ~~take care of it~~  
-- but you ~~better take care of~~  
~~this bill before our credit runs~~  
~~out at the grocery store.~~

*I will - but there's something  
you can't avoid. His grocery  
bill. Do you think you  
can take care of that?*

GEORGE:

All right.

LELA:

And while you're at it ... I'll  
need money to get Roy some  
clothes for school.

GEORGE:

If Roy needs clothes he'll get  
them. All you have to do is  
ask for the money.



LELA:

Why do I have to ask you? I'm  
entitled to money for the house.  
Why do I have to come running  
every time I need a few dollars?

GEORGE:

You don't know how to manage.

LELA:

Aren't you tired of that excuse.  
What you mean is ... you like to  
have me beg. Everything you want  
... you buy. New suits ... an-  
other car. And now ... a new toy.  
How much did that cost?

GEORGE:

Never mind. Just don't start  
about the car. Or the suits  
either. I need them for business.  
You know that. A man has to look  
like something.

LELA:

Let him be something first.

GEORGE: (UNDER)

COCHRAN: (VO)

I am something. I  
know what I'm doing.

It is the same in too many  
families. Small, bitter

GEORGE: (Cont'd)

COCHRAN: (V.O., Cont'd)

I buy what I want and arguments.  
 you don't tell me what Routine ... and endless.  
 I can do ... or can't Night after night ... the  
 do. eroding away of their

LELA: (UNDER) dignity and self-respect  
 You can do what you until finally ... their  
 want ... only when humiliation is accepted  
 your child needs some as a part of their daily  
 clothes, I don't want lives.  
 to come begging to you.  
 You've got money for  
 everything but your family.

(GEORGE TURNS THE DIAL OF THE  
 HI FI AND IT BOOMS FORTH THUNDER-  
 INGLY)

LELA:

George, I'm not finished.

Listen to me --

(GEORGE X'S TO DINETTE CHEST.

LELA FOLLOWS)

LELA:(Cont'd)

~~George, listen to me please.~~ You  
 like it, don't you? Making every-  
 one depend on you. Makes you feel  
 like a man, doesn't it?



GEORGE:

(X'ING BACK TO LIVING ROOM DESK)

How many times do we have to  
go through that? If you'd  
stop listening to your mother...

(ROY APPEARS IN KITCHEN DOOR)

LELA:

She's not to blame. You are.  
Every time I have to ask for  
something...you talk about her.  
Because you don't want to admit  
you're wrong.

GEORGE:

All right, I'm no good. Maybe  
you should have married that  
teacher you used to go out with.

LELA:

Sometimes I wish I had.

GEORGE:

Go away. Just go away.

(SOUND: A CRASH OF GLASS FROM THE  
KITCHEN. ROY HAS DROPPED THE MILK  
GLASS. LELA HURRIES TO KITCHEN)

LELA:

*By what happened?*  
Did you hurt yourself?